

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 29, 1973

Dear Mr. Schlesinger:

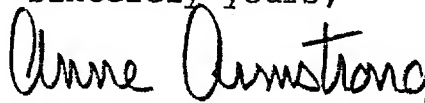
Since you have a continuing interest in the property review program as the head of a Federal land-holding agency, I am enclosing copies of recent announcements concerning the President's Legacy of Parks program and the establishment of the Federal Property Council.

The June 25 announcement of 36 additional parcels of surplus Federal property to be made available for park and recreation use brings to 325 the total number of Legacy of Parks properties since the program was initiated less than two and one-half years ago. I know you join in our pleasure that such progress has been made in this worthwhile program.

The Executive Order establishing the Federal Property Council takes effect July 1, 1973. The Council will, in effect, replace the Property Review Board and take on its functions. In addition, the Council will be responsible for reviewing our Federal real property policies in the light of our overall objectives, and it will recommend to the President necessary modifications.

While I expect that the President's statement and the fact sheet will provide answers to most of the questions you may have, I invite you to contact my office if I can be of further assistance. One of my prime objectives as the new Chairman is to work closely with you and the heads of other land-holding agencies to realize our mutual goal of assuring the highest and best use of Federal properties. I would be very interested in any ideas or suggestions you have concerning the property review program.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Tobin Armstrong  
Counsellor to the President

Honorable James R. Schlesinger  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXECUTIVE ORDER

FEDERAL PROPERTY COUNCIL

By virtue of the authority vested in me by section 205(a) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 486(a)), and as President of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby established in the Executive Office of the President a Federal Property Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council). The Council shall be composed of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, and such other members from the Executive Office of the President as the President may, from time to time, specify. The President shall designate one of the members to be Chairman of the Council, and shall designate its Executive Secretary.

Sec. 2. The Council shall:

- (1) develop and review Federal real property policies with respect to their relationship to other policies and to the objectives of the executive branch of the Government and recommend to the President such Federal real property policies or reforms of policies as it deems necessary; and
- (2) receive the reports made by the Administrator of General Services pursuant to section 3 of this order, as well as other reports relating to Federal real property requested by the Chairman, with particular attention to resolving conflicting claims on, and alternate uses for, any property described in those reports, and it shall make such reports and submit such recommendations to the President as may be appropriate.

Sec. 3(a) The Administrator of General Services shall:

- (1) conduct surveys of real property holdings of executive agencies on a continuing basis and in a manner consistent with the needs of the Council, to identify properties which are not utilized, are underutilized, or are not being put to their optimum use; and
- (2) make reports to the President, through the Council, describing any property or portion thereof which has not been reported excess to the requirements of the holding agency and which, in the judgment of the Administrator is either not utilized, is underutilized, or is not being put to the optimum use, and which he recommends should be reported as excess property.

(b) The Administrator of General Services shall participate in the deliberations of the Council, where appropriate.

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Sec. 4. As used in this order:

(1) the term "executive agency" means "executive agency" as defined in section 3(a) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 472(a));

(2) the term "property", however modified, means real property or an interest therein, which is covered by the definition of "property" set forth in section 3(d) of the act (40 U.S.C. 472(d)), and also lands withdrawn or reserved from the public domain which are utilized by executive agencies for purposes other than national forests, national parks, or wildlife reserves; and

(3) the term "excess property" means "excess property" as defined in section 3(e) of the act (40 U.S.C. 472(e)).

Sec. 5. Executive agencies shall cooperate with the Council in the performance of its functions, and shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide it with such information, assistance, and staff support as may be needed to carry out those functions.

Sec. 6. Executive Order No. 11508 of February 10, 1970, and Executive Order No. 11560 of September 23, 1970, are hereby superseded, and the Property Review Board is hereby abolished.

Sec. 7. This order shall be effective as of July 1, 1973.

RICHARD NIXON

THE WHITE HOUSE,

June 25, 1973

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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT  
ON FEDERAL PROPERTY COUNCIL

As our people have gradually pushed across our frontiers and our changing way of life has threatened much of America's natural beauty, we have learned at last that our land must be treated as a precious asset.

The Federal Government today bears a very special responsibility for this resource. One third of all the land in the country -- more than 760 million acres -- is now owned by our Government. Of this amount, some 56 million acres have been acquired by the Government by purchase or donation just to carry on its daily activities.

Three-and-one-half years ago, recognizing that we could make more effective use of this irreplaceable heritage and that we have both the opportunity and the need to create more recreational areas, I ordered a review of all Federal holdings. Every agency was asked to determine whether its lands were being well used and to report its findings to the Administrator of General Services.

At the same time, I established a Property Review Board to review the GSA reports and to recommend to me how those properties could be put to better use. It was my intention that the Board would serve as a catalyst in this process and would devote particular attention to identifying lands for recreational uses.

The results of this initiative have been gratifying. Growing directly out of the studies and recommendations was the Legacy of Parks program, under which surplus Federal real property has been made available to State and local governments for parks and recreation, especially near urban areas. In the 28 months since the program was started, 325 properties -- including 36 announced today -- have been turned over for park and recreational purposes. They cover over 54,000 acres and have an estimated market value of about \$150 million.

In addition to furthering our environmental and recreational objectives and our commitment to the sound management of our Federal assets, the Legacy of Parks program is a striking example of the New Federalism in action. Resources of the Federal Government are made available to States and localities for a broad purpose -- providing recreational opportunities -- and their local communities through their representatives, decide how they can best develop those resources to meet their own recreational needs.

While our progress under the Property Review Board has taught us that we can make better use of our Federal lands, it has also made it clear that in order to make optimum use of these resources, we must develop a more coherent set of policies for the handling of all Federal properties. In the absence of general guidelines, a Government agency still determines the use and disposition of its holdings solely on the basis of its own mission and without full regard for our broader policies.

Today, in order to foster the development of more effective national policies that apply to all agencies and departments, I am creating a Federal Property Council within the Executive Office of the President.

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It is specifically charged with reviewing all Federal real property policies to test their consistency with the overall objectives of the Government and with recommending to me such reforms, modifications, or initiatives as seem necessary.

The Administrator of General Services will continue to conduct surveys of Federal properties, identifying those which he believes can be put to better use and recommending appropriate action. The Federal Property Council will study his reports and will assist in the resolution of any conflicting claims for the use of properties.

The new Council will also assume all other duties of the Property Review Board, including the development of the Legacy of Parks Program. The Board is being abolished.

I have asked Mrs. Anne Armstrong, Counsellor to the President and Chairman of the Property Review Board, to serve as Chairman of the Federal Property Council.

Other members of the Council will include Roy Ash, Director of the Office of Management and Budget; Bryce Harlow, Counsellor to the President; Leonard Garment, Counsel to the President; Herbert Stein, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers; William Timmons, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs; and Russell Train, Chairman of the Council of Environmental Quality.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 25, 1973

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President announced today the creation of a Federal Property Council and the appointment of Mrs. Anne Armstrong as its Chairman.

The Council is being established to develop and review Federal real property policies to ensure their consistency with the broad, overall objectives of the Government. The Council will also assume the responsibilities of the Property Review Board, including the President's Legacy of Parks program. The Property Review Board is being abolished.

Others who will serve on the new Council, along with Mrs. Armstrong, will be Roy Ash, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Leonard Garment, Acting Counsel to the President; Bryce Harlow, Counsellor to the President; Herbert Stein, Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers; William Timmons, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs; and Russell Train, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality.

Mrs. Armstrong has been serving as Chairman of the Property Review Board since February. She will continue her other responsibilities as Counsellor to the President.

Prior to her current assignment, Mrs. Armstrong served as Co-Chairman of the Republican National Committee. She received her B.A. degree from Vassar College and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. A native of New Orleans, Mrs. Armstrong has for the past twenty-two years resided in Armstrong, Texas with her husband and five children.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 25, 1973

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

In conjunction with the creation of the Federal Property Council and the naming of Counsellor Anne Armstrong as its Chairman, the President announced today that 36 additional parcels of Federal property will be transferred to State and local governments for park and recreation use under the Legacy of Parks Program.

Today's announcement brings to 325 the number of properties declared surplus to Federal requirements and made available to State and local governments in all 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia under the Legacy of Parks Program since its inception a little over two years ago. These 325 properties total 53,717 acres and have an estimated market value of \$147,851,676. The program was launched on March 1, 1971, with the first cost-free transfer of \$1.1 million worth of Federal property to the County of Nassau, New York.

Included in the 36 properties are tracts in California (six properties), Connecticut, Florida (four properties), Maine (two properties), Massachusetts (two properties), Michigan (two properties), Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio (two properties), Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Virginia (four properties), Washington (three properties), and Wisconsin.

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LEGACY OF PARKS PROPERTIES

<u>Name and Location</u>	<u>Approximate Acres</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
Portion, Castroville Radio Direction Finder Station Castroville, California	94	\$ 200,000
Portion, Mt. Diablo Microwave Relay Station Contra Costa County, California	1	\$ 1,000
Castroville Amphibious Training Area Monterey County, California	270	\$ 546,000
Portion, Camp Elliott San Diego, California	177	\$ 189,000
Portion, U.S. Coast Guard Station San Bruno San Mateo County, California	57	\$ 300,000
Portion, Mare Island Naval Shipyard Vallejo, California	55	\$ 60,000
Portion, Federal Correctional Institution Danbury, Connecticut	35	\$ 106,500
Portion, U.S. Beef Cattle Research Station Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida	408	\$ 408,000
Portion, U.S. Beef Cattle Research Station Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida	375	\$ 187,500
Portion, U.S. Beef Cattle Research Station Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida	110	\$ 165,000
Portion, Outlying Landing Field Site 5 Naval Air Station Ellyson Field Pensacola, Florida	100	\$ 400,000

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<u>Name and Location</u>	<u>Approximate Acres</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
Portion, Franklin Island Light Station Knox County, Maine	12	\$ 5,000
Portion, Curtis Island Light Station Camden, Maine	6	\$ 110,000
Portion, Fort Devens Worcester County Harvard, Massachusetts	662	\$ 65,000
Portion, Merrimac River Lifeboat Station Plum Island Essex County Newburyport, Massachusetts	43	\$ 43,000
Portion, Fort Custer Military Reservation Battle Creek, Michigan	96	\$ 30,000
Portion, Detroit Arsenal Warren, Michigan	8	\$ 290,000
Portion, Keesler Communications Facility Annex and Kessler Direction Finder Annex Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi	7	\$ 12,000
Portion, Fort Crowder Newton County, Missouri	150	\$ 15,000
Portion, BLM Administrative Site Fort Missoula, Montana	17	\$ 35,000
Portion, Alamogordo Creek Watershed Experiment Project Santa Rosa, New Mexico	28	\$ 16,000
Portion, Lima Army Modification Center Allen County, Ohio	108	\$ 225,000

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<u>Name and Location</u>	<u>Approximate Acres</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
Tiffin Grain Bin Site Tiffin, Ohio	3	\$ 3,000
Portion, Fort Sill Oklahoma	9	\$ 9,000
Housing Site, Dashields Locks and Dam Ohio River Glenwillard, Crescent Township Allegheny County, Pennsylvania	2	\$ 24,500
Portion, U.S. Naval Underwater Systems Center Gould Island Jamestown, Rhode Island	17	\$ 100,000
Portion, Federal Correctional Institution Federal Reservation Seagoville, Texas	33	\$ 100,000
Portion, Defense Depot Ogden, Utah	80	\$ 80,000
Portion, Marine Corps Development and Education Command Quantico Prince William County, Virginia	992	\$2,500,000
Portion, Marine Corps Development and Education Command Stafford County, Virginia	150	\$ 375,000
Portion, Fleet Combat Direction Systems Training Center Dam Neck, Virginia Beach, Virginia	7	\$ 70,000
Portion, U.S. Army Material Command Woodbridge Research Facility Woodbridge, Virginia	63	\$ 47,000
Portion, Naval Torpedo Station Keyport, Washington	2	\$ 16,000

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<u>Name and Location</u>	<u>Approximate Acres</u>	<u>Estimated Value</u>
Tidelands, Mukilteo Light Station Mukilteo, Washington	1	\$ 1,000
Former Chapel Area Fort Lawton Military Reservation Seattle, Washington	6	\$ 94,000
Nike Battery 20 Roberts, Wisconsin	40	\$ 50,000
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TOTALS -- 36 Properties	4,224	\$6,878,500
	Acres	Estimated Value

CUMULATIVE TOTALS FOR LEGACY OF PARKS

325 - Properties in 50 States, District of Columbia,  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

53,717 - Approximate Acreage

\$147,851,676 - Estimated Fair Market Value

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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE PRESIDENT'S PROPERTY REVIEW PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

February, 1970

The President ordered a complete review of Federal property holdings in his Environmental Message to Congress:

"I propose that we adopt a new philosophy for the use of Federally-owned lands, treating them as a precious resource -- like money itself -- which should be made to serve the highest possible good."

The President observed that Federal real property:

- is the largest Federal asset, representing one-third of the Nation's geographic area.
- covers 760 million acres in 50 States, in several outlying areas, including Guam, and Puerto Rico, and in 129 foreign countries.
- includes 56 million acres acquired by the Government, of which 1.6 million acres are located in urban areas.

The President issued Executive Order 11508 establishing the Property Review Board, which:

- has identified underutilized Federal property which can be converted to park and recreation uses, particularly in locations close to where people live.
- has considered disputes regarding the utilization of specific Federal parcels and made recommendations to the President as to the use of Federal properties that promise the greatest public benefit.
- has encouraged and arranged for the joint use by the public of Federal properties in order to increase public access for recreational purposes.

October, 1970

A statute proposed in a Presidential Message to Congress and passed on October 22, 1970, enables the Federal Government to convey surplus real property to State and local governments for park and recreation use at up to 100% discounts. In previous surplus transactions, the recipient had to pay 50% of the land's value -- and that was beyond the reach of most communities.

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OVER

February, 1971

The President created the unique Legacy of Parks program.

"I have proposed a new 'Legacy of Parks' program which will help States and local governments provide parks and recreation areas, not just for today's Americans but for tomorrow's as well. Only if we set aside and develop such recreation areas now can we ensure that they will be available for future generations."

The Legacy of Parks:

- makes surplus Federal properties available for park and recreation use.
- is the first program of its kind in the Nation's history.
- is aimed at bringing recreation opportunities closer to where people live.

Legacy of Parks Milestones:

- March, 1971: The first Federal property under the Legacy of Parks program, a 128-acre parcel with an estimated value of \$1,106,000 was transferred to the County of Nassau in New York State.
- September, 1971: 2,936 acres of Pacific coastline, formerly a part of Camp Pendleton, valued at \$20,520,000, was leased to the State of California.
- April, 1972: The 100th Federal property to be made available to State and local governments under the President's program was transferred to St. Bernard Parish in a New Orleans, Louisiana ceremony.
- October, 1972: President Nixon announced the 200th transfer of Federal property to the American people under his Legacy of Parks program.
- October, 1972: State or local governments in all of the 50 States had received land for parks and recreation use.
- June 25, 1973: President Nixon announced the 325th parcel of Federal property for conveyance to the American people under his Legacy of Parks program. These properties now cover almost 54,000 acres and have an estimated market value of almost \$150 million.

Federal Property Council

On June 25, 1973, in recognition of the need to ensure that Federal real property policies are consistent with the overall objectives of the Government, the President issued an Executive Order creating the Federal Property Council. In addition to reviewing and developing property policies, the Council takes on the functions previously assigned to the Property Review Board which is abolished by the Executive Order.

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Members of the Federal Property Council

Anne Armstrong, Chairman  
Counsellor to the President

Roy Ash  
Director, Office of Management & Budget

Leonard Garment  
Acting Counsel to the President

Byrce Harlow  
Counsellor to the President

Herbert Stein  
Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers

William Timmons  
Assistant to the President for  
Legislative Affairs

Russell Train  
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality

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DD/M&S 73-2664: Ltr dtd 29 Jun 73 fr Counsellor to the President to DCI re property review program